

24997D

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the Related Applications paragraph [0001] and substitute therefore:

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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[0001] This application claims the priority of and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/992,254 (Issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,668,972) filed November 6, 2001, entitled BUMPER/MUFFLER ASSEMBLY, by Norman Thomas Huff et al., the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0039] with the following:

[0039] FIG. 5 and FIG. 6 illustrate another embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 5 shows a bushing 40 having constructed of multiple layers of materials. In FIG. 5, three layers of materials are shown however more or less than three layers may be utilized. The first, inner layer 42 in the bushing is made of a material that will withstand high heat from the muffler and perforated exhaust pipe 54. The first, inner layer is preferably made of a ceramic material. The second, middle layer 44 of bushing 40 is constructed of another material to withstand heat exposure and/or mechanical shock. Preferably, the material is a phenolic material. The third, outer layer 46 of bushing 40 is constructed of an expandable material, such as rubberized phenolic, to provide a snug, expandable fit to the muffler shell and provide gas tight properties to the bushing assembly. Optionally, and not shown, a forth layer, preferably made of a ceramic or titanium material could provide thermal shock resistance and a fifth layer, preferably made of stainless steel or coated with a copper alloy, zinc alloy, chromium or other known corrosion resistant metal could provide chemical corrosion resistance. FIG. 6 shows a detail the assembled muffler as shown in FIG. 5.